ERICACEAE

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (L.) Spreng.
Aruv

bearberry, kinnikinnick

FORM: Prostrate, often rooting along the stems, usually not over 20 cm (8 in) tall, sometimes mat forming.

LEAVES: Alternate, evergreen, glabrous, entire, spatulate leaves, 1-3 cm (1 in) long, dark green somewhat shiny above, paler below.

FLOWERS: White to pink, urn-shaped, 5 mm long; borne in terminal clusters; April-June.

FRUIT: Bright red berry 7-10 mm broad, edible with a dry, mealy interior.

SIMILAR SPECIES: [Linnaea borealis, p. 48]; and Gaultheria species, p. 45.

NOTES: Alternate host for spruce broom rust. Indians used leaves as tobacco and to make a yellow dye. Fruit makes good jelly; and it is a good ground cover plant.